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The Recurrent Clan Clashes on Economic Development and Social Progress in the Mudug Region of Somalia: Cross-sectional Study

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Abstract: This study examines how recurrent clan clashes in a pastoral region shape economic development and social progress by combining structured questionnaires with key informant interviews and focus group discussions in a mixed-methods framework (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Quantitative data were coded, cleaned, and analyzed in SPSS while thematic analysis organized qualitative narratives, producing triangulated evidence from multiple stakeholder groups including youth, local administrators, traditional elders, business owners, women, and internally displaced persons (El-Naggar et al., 2016). A target sample of 130 participants was recruited, with 98 responding to structured questionnaires; qualitative fieldwork complemented these survey data (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Findings identify competition over grazing land and water, drought-induced scarcity, revenge attacks, political interference, youth unemployment, and weak local governance as interacting drivers that generate recurring cycles of violence (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Economic impacts concentrate on interrupted trade, constrained transport corridors, damaged productive assets, declining household income, slowed market activity, and reduced employment, with livestock production and transportation especially exposed (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Social consequences include disrupted schooling, teacher relocation, shortages of health personnel and medicines, erosion of community trust, and widespread internal displacement that strains host communities and service systems (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Coping mechanisms center on customary mediation led by elders and religious leaders, household livelihood diversification, community solidarity, and humanitarian assistance, yet these responses are increasingly strained by repeated shocks (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Policy implications emphasize linking emergency support with longer-term development: strengthen natural resource governance, enhance local administrative capacity, expand employment opportunities for youth, protect education and health services during insecurity, and integrate traditional dispute resolution with formal institutions (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Keywords: Recurrent clan clashes, Mudug region, Economic development, Social progress, Resource scarcity, Mixed-methods research, Livelihood diversification, Community resilience, Population displacement, Peacebuilding (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

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1. INTRODUCTION

Contextualizing Recurrent Clan Clashes in Somalia

Recurrent clan clashes in Somalia occur within a wider landscape of prolonged political instability, armed violence, and institutional fragility following the collapse of the central government in 1991 (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Localized conflicts are intertwined with national patterns of insecurity that undermine economic productivity, weaken public institutions, disrupt service delivery, and erode social cohesion across fragile and conflict-affected states (El-Naggar et al., 2016). In this setting, communal violence is not an isolated phenomenon but part of a continuum of conflict that constrains poverty reduction, investment, and long-term socioeconomic transformation (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Within Somalia, localized clan-based confrontations are frequently driven by competition over grazing land, water resources, territorial boundaries, political representation, and historical grievances (El-Naggar et al., 2016). These factors interact to produce recurrent clashes whose cumulative impacts extend beyond immediate battlefields to shape

household livelihoods, market performance, access to social services, and community resilience (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Pastoral and trading communities that depend on shared natural resources and transport corridors are particularly exposed when disputes over access escalate into organized violence (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Existing research on Somalia has paid considerable attention to civil war, terrorism, and state-building, but comparatively fewer studies offer empirical analysis of how recurrent clan clashes simultaneously affect economic development and social progress at the community level in specific regions such as Mudug (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Previous work often concentrates on macro-level political instability or humanitarian consequences, leaving localized socioeconomic impacts and lived community experiences underexplored (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

This gap limits the ability of policymakers and practitioners to design context-specific peacebuilding and development interventions that address the everyday consequences of recurrent communal violence (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Available evidence indicates that recurrent clan conflicts in Somalia seldom arise from a single cause; instead, they emerge through interactions among environmental, political, economic, historical, and institutional drivers (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Competition over grazing land, water resources, and territorial boundaries intensifies during drought periods, when natural resources become scarce and pastoral mobility is constrained (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Weak governance, political interference, and limited institutional capacity further exacerbate tensions by undermining confidence in formal conflict management systems and reducing opportunities for peaceful dispute resolution (El-Naggar et al., 2016). These dynamics align with Resource Scarcity Theory, which links environmental pressures to heightened competition and an increased likelihood of violence (Brock & Madigan, 2016), and with analyses highlighting how deficient governance structures allow localized disagreements to escalate into prolonged cycles of conflict (Gershon et al., 2017).

At the social level, recurrent clan clashes disrupt education, healthcare, and community cohesion, contributing to population displacement and reinforcing mistrust and fragmentation among groups (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Schools may close during insecurity, teachers relocate to safer areas, and families withdraw children from education because of safety concerns, while healthcare facilities experience shortages of personnel, medicines, and essential services (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

These processes weaken human capital and make recovery increasingly difficult without integrated development interventions that address both security and service delivery challenges (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Population displacement further exposes affected households to poverty, food insecurity, and psychosocial challenges, while placing additional pressure on host communities through increased competition for limited resources and public services (El-Naggar et al., 2016). In this broader Somali context, the Mudug region stands out as one of the most conflict-prone areas (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Its economy relies heavily on livestock production, trade, transportation, and pastoral mobility, making local communities acutely vulnerable to disruptions caused by recurring clan violence (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Clashes interrupt commercial activities, restrict movement along major transport corridors, damage productive assets, and discourage investment, thereby constraining long-term development prospects (El-Naggar et al., 2016). At the same time, violence affects education, healthcare delivery, and social cohesion, which together limit opportunities for sustainable recovery and resilience building (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Empirical investigation of Mudug therefore provides a crucial localized lens through which to understand how recurrent clan clashes shape both economic and social trajectories within Somalia (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Significance of Studying the Mudug Region

Focusing on the Mudug region provides a strategically important lens for understanding how recurrent clan clashes shape intertwined economic and social trajectories in Somalia (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Mudug is identified as one of the country's most conflict-prone areas, with an economy that relies heavily on livestock production, trade, transportation, and pastoral mobility (El-Naggar et al., 2016). These livelihood systems depend on secure access to markets, grazing areas, and transport corridors, so periodic clashes have pronounced effects on everyday economic activities and longer-term development pathways (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Recurrent violence in Mudug interrupts commercial activities, restricts movement along major transport routes, damages productive assets, and discourages private investment (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Trade is especially exposed because insecurity increases transportation costs, limits the movement of goods and people, and creates uncertainty for both traders and consumers (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Businesses respond by reducing operations or suspending investment, leading to declines in employment opportunities and household income (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Livestock production, transportation, and informal trade are particularly susceptible, as these sectors depend on uninterrupted mobility and market access (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Examining Mudug therefore allows detailed assessment of how localized insecurity undermines economic growth through capital destruction, labor displacement, and reduced productive activities (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

The region is also central for analyzing social progress under conditions of persistent violence (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Empirical findings show that recurrent clan clashes in Mudug disrupt education, healthcare, community cohesion, and population stability (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Schools may close during periods of insecurity, teachers move to safer areas, and families withdraw children due to safety concerns, which reduces educational attainment and future employment prospects (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Healthcare facilities experience shortages of personnel, medicines, and essential services, limiting treatment for vulnerable populations (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Conflict weakens community cohesion by reinforcing mistrust, fear, and social fragmentation, while internal displacement forces households to abandon homes and productive assets, exposing them to reduced access to education and healthcare and heightened dependence on humanitarian assistance (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

These interlinked impacts mean that studying Mudug is vital for understanding how localized conflict erodes human capital and social resilience over time (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Evidence from Mudug further illustrates that recurrent clan clashes are sustained by a complex set of drivers (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Competition over grazing land and water resources intensifies during prolonged dry seasons, when rivers, wells, and boreholes become insufficient to meet demand, and disputes over water access interact with historical grievances and territorial disagreements (Brock & Madigan, 2016). Revenge attacks transform isolated incidents into recurring patterns of violence that can persist across generations, while political interference related to leadership positions, administrative boundaries, and resource allocation often amplifies existing clan divisions (Gershon et al., 2017). Analyzing these dynamics in Mudug is therefore significant for grounding broader theoretical arguments, such as Resource Scarcity Theory and Conflict Theory, in a concrete conflict setting (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Mudug also offers a setting in which to observe community resilience and peacebuilding efforts under repeated stress (Partington, 2016). Findings highlight traditional conflict resolution mechanisms led by elders and religious leaders, livelihood diversification, and community solidarity, including provision of financial assistance, livestock, or temporary shelter to affected families (Partington, 2016). Humanitarian organizations and development partners provide emergency food aid, healthcare, water interventions, livelihood support, education, and psychosocial services, while communities emphasize the need to link such assistance with long-term development programs that promote employment, infrastructure rehabilitation, and local economic development (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Studying Mudug thus generates insights into how local actors, government institutions, civil society, and international partners can combine peacebuilding, governance reform, and development support to address the multidimensional consequences of recurrent clan clashes (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Historical and Socio-Political Background of the Mudug Region

Clan relations in Mudug have evolved within a context where localized communal conflicts gradually became embedded in everyday economic and social life (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Evidence shows that recurrent clashes are typically driven by competition over grazing land, water resources, territorial boundaries, political representation, and historical grievances, indicating that inter-clan relations have long been structured around access to shared natural resources and political influence (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Over time, these recurring disputes have contributed to patterns of rivalry that transcend isolated incidents, shaping how neighboring clans perceive one another and negotiate coexistence in a fragile environment (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Environmental stress plays a central role in the historical trajectory of clan relations (Brock & Madigan, 2016). During prolonged dry seasons, rivers, wells, and boreholes become insufficient to meet rising demand, and competition over water access intensifies (Brock & Madigan, 2016). Interview participants report that disputes over water rarely occur in isolation; instead, they interact with existing historical grievances and territorial disagreements, reinforcing broader patterns of inter-clan rivalry (El-Naggar et al., 2016). These findings demonstrate that climate variability and environmental stress indirectly shape clan relations by increasing competition over essential resources, making past grievances more salient whenever scarcity emerges (Brock & Madigan, 2016).

Retaliatory violence has further transformed the character of clan interactions in Mudug (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Survey findings identify revenge attacks as a major factor sustaining the recurrence of clan clashes (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Unresolved grievances from previous confrontations frequently generate retaliatory attacks, creating prolonged cycles of violence between affected communities (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Qualitative evidence adds that many disputes remain unresolved because families and clans continue to seek retribution for losses of life or property, with each violent incident generating new grievances (El-Naggar et al., 2016). This dynamic indicates that historical memory of conflict is continuously reproduced, making reconciliation increasingly difficult without sustained mediation by respected elders and religious leaders (Partington, 2016).

Political processes have interacted with these historical patterns of rivalry (Gershon et al., 2017). Respondents identify political interference as a major contributor to recurring clan clashes, noting that competition over leadership positions, administrative boundaries, and resource allocation often intensifies existing divisions (Gershon et al., 2017). In this environment, political actors are sometimes perceived as exploiting clan identities to strengthen their own influence, which embeds political contestation into pre-existing social cleavages (Gershon et al., 2017). As a result, historical trajectories of clan relations

in Mudug cannot be separated from evolving struggles over governance and representation (Gershon et al., 2017). Despite these conflictual tendencies, communities have also maintained enduring traditions of solidarity and mutual assistance that shape inter-clan relations (Partington, 2016).

Respondents describe community solidarity in which relatives and neighbors provide financial assistance, livestock, or temporary shelter to affected families during recovery periods, highlighting long-standing social support networks (Partington, 2016). Strong family relationships, clan-based mutual assistance, and collective resource sharing arrangements help households recover from economic losses and displacement, suggesting that historical norms of reciprocity remain influential (Partington, 2016). At the same time, recurrent conflicts, climate shocks, and economic hardship increasingly strain these traditional mechanisms, indicating a trajectory in which resilience is maintained but under growing pressure (Partington, 2016). Indigenous peacebuilding institutions have been central to managing these evolving relations (Partington, 2016).

Traditional elders and religious leaders retain significant legitimacy and play key roles in mediation and reconciliation, often facilitating dialogue more effectively than formal institutions (Partington, 2016). Communities continue to rely on customary dispute resolution practices to cope with insecurity, and integrated analysis of recovery processes shows that indigenous institutions remain highly influential in maintaining social cohesion (Partington, 2016). However, respondents also stress that stronger collaboration between government institutions, traditional leaders, civil society organizations, and development partners is widely viewed as essential for sustainable peacebuilding (Gershon et al., 2017). This indicates that the historical trajectory of clan relations in Mudug is now shaped by an interplay between long-standing customary structures and emerging demands for institutional strengthening and inclusive governance (Gershon et al., 2017).

Political Economy of Mudug in the Somali Context

Economic structures in Mudug are closely intertwined with patterns of recurrent clan clashes, which shape trade, employment, and household income across the region (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Local livelihoods depend largely on livestock production, transportation, and informal trade, all of which require uninterrupted access to markets, grazing areas, and transport corridors (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Violent confrontations interrupt commercial activities, damage productive assets, and restrict movement, resulting in declining employment opportunities and reduced household income for conflict-affected communities (El-Naggar et al., 2016). These dynamics situate Mudug within a broader Somali context where localized violence undermines economic productivity and constrains longer-term development trajectories (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Social dimensions of the regional political economy reinforce and are reinforced by these economic disruptions (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Persistent conflict weakens education systems, health services, and community cohesion, all of which are essential for sustaining a productive labor force and enabling investment in human capital (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Schools may close during insecurity, teachers relocate to safer areas, and families withdraw children because of safety concerns, limiting future employment prospects (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Healthcare facilities often face shortages of personnel, medicines, and essential services, while healthcare workers may suspend operations or relocate due to insecurity, reducing access to treatment and increasing health risks for vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children, older adults, and individuals with chronic illnesses (El-Naggar et al., 2016). These processes collectively diminish the capacity of communities to recover from both conflict-related injuries and routine health challenges (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

The political foundations of Mudug's economy are marked by weak governance structures, limited institutional capacity, and contested resource management, which together intensify tensions around economic opportunities (Gershon et al., 2017). Government interventions in promoting sustainable peace are widely perceived as constrained by inadequate financial resources, weak institutional coordination, and insufficient implementation of peace agreements (Gershon et al., 2017). Respondents report that delays in conflict resolution and limited local administrative capacity undermine public confidence in governance systems, thereby reducing the effectiveness of formal mechanisms for managing disputes over grazing land, water resources, and political representation (Gershon et al., 2017). Strengthening local governance institutions is therefore identified as a critical component of conflict prevention and, by extension, of stabilizing the economic environment in which households and businesses operate (Gershon et al., 2017).

Conflict drivers have direct implications for the regional political economy (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Competition over grazing land and water resources serves as an immediate trigger for many disputes, especially during prolonged dry seasons when rivers, wells, and boreholes become insufficient for rising demand (Brock & Madigan, 2016). Interview evidence shows that disputes over water access interact with historical grievances and territorial disagreements, reinforcing broader inter-clan rivalries and increasing the likelihood of violent confrontation (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Revenge attacks further sustain cycles of violence, as unresolved grievances from previous clashes generate retaliatory attacks and transform isolated incidents into recurring patterns (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Political interference related to leadership positions, administrative boundaries, and resource allocation frequently intensifies existing clan divisions, with political actors perceived as exploiting clan identities to consolidate influence (Gershon et al., 2017). Together, these environmental, social, and institutional dynamics shape the allocation of resources, the distribution of economic opportunities, and the stability of investment conditions in Mudug (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Despite these constraints, communities exhibit adaptive economic and social strategies that partially mitigate the adverse effects of violence (Partington, 2016). Livelihood diversification is described as an important strategy for reducing economic vulnerability in conflict-affected settings, enabling households to spread risk across multiple income sources (Partington, 2016). Community solidarity plays a complementary role: relatives and neighbors provide financial assistance, livestock, or temporary shelter to affected families during recovery, thereby supporting household consumption and asset rebuilding (Partington, 2016).

Humanitarian organizations and development partners contribute additional resources through emergency food aid, healthcare services, water interventions, livelihood support, educational assistance, and psychosocial services for displaced households (El-Naggar et al., 2016). However, respondents stress that such assistance often remains insufficient for long-term recovery and emphasize the need for sustainable development programs that promote employment creation, infrastructure rehabilitation, education, and local economic development (El-Naggar et al., 2016). These perspectives underscore a political economy in which peacebuilding, governance reform, and development support must be integrated to address the structural and immediate factors shaping conflict and economic performance in Mudug (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Conceptualizing Conflict, Economic Development, and Social Progress

Clarifying the core concepts used in this study is essential for interpreting how recurrent clan clashes in Mudug relate to economic development and social progress (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Conflict is treated as persistent, localized clan-based violence driven by competition over grazing land, water resources, territorial boundaries, political representation, historical grievances, youth unemployment, and weak governance (El-Naggar et al., 2016). This violence is characterized not only by isolated incidents but by recurring cycles sustained through revenge attacks, in which unresolved grievances over loss of life or property lead to retaliatory confrontations that can persist across generations (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Political interference, including competition over leadership positions, administrative boundaries, and resource allocation, is conceptualized as a key institutional driver that intensifies clan divisions rather than mitigating them (Gershon et al., 2017).

Within this framework, economic development refers to the ability of households and communities to maintain and improve livelihoods, employment, trade, and productive assets in the face of recurrent violence (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Livelihoods in Mudug depend largely on livestock production, transportation, and informal trade, which require uninterrupted access to markets, grazing areas, and transport corridors (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Conflict-related disruptions are therefore understood as direct constraints on economic development, manifested through interrupted commercial activities, damaged productive assets, declining employment opportunities, and reduced household income (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Economic marginalization, particularly high levels of youth unemployment, is simultaneously treated as both an outcome of conflict and a driver of further violence, as limited employment opportunities increase young people's vulnerability to recruitment into clan clashes (Gershon et al., 2017).

Social progress in this study denotes improvements in education, healthcare, community cohesion, and population stability (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Recurrent clan clashes are defined as undermining social progress when they disrupt educational continuity, reduce access to healthcare services, weaken community cohesion, and contribute to internal displacement (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Schools closing during insecurity, teachers relocating to safer areas, and families withdrawing children from education are interpreted as core indicators of compromised social progress (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Similarly, shortages of healthcare personnel, medicines, and essential services, alongside relocation or suspension of work by health staff, capture the erosion of health-related social development (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Weakening community cohesion is understood in terms of reinforced mistrust, fear, and social fragmentation, especially when historical grievances are reproduced through repeated cycles of violence (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Population displacement is treated as a distinct but interlinked concept (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Internal displacement occurs when households are forced to abandon homes and established livelihood opportunities in search of safety (El-Naggar et al., 2016). The loss of housing, livestock, productive assets, and access to education and healthcare, together with increased dependence on humanitarian assistance and psychological stress from repeated forced migration, defines displacement as a multidimensional social and economic impact of conflict (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Pressures placed on host communities through increased demand for housing, water, healthcare, and education are considered part of the broader concept of social progress being undermined (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Community resilience is defined as the capacity of households and communities to cope with, adapt to, and recover from recurrent clan clashes (Partington, 2016). This encompasses traditional social support networks, collective resource sharing, community solidarity, livelihood diversification, and reliance on customary dispute resolution practices (Partington, 2016). Strong family relationships, clan-based mutual assistance, and the provision of financial support, livestock, or temporary shelter to affected families are concrete expressions of resilience (Partington, 2016). Indigenous peacebuilding institutions, particularly traditional elders and religious leaders, are conceptualized as central components of resilience due to their legitimacy and effectiveness in mediation and reconciliation (Partington, 2016). However, resilience is explicitly framed as being under strain from recurrent conflicts, climate shocks, and economic hardship, which necessitates complementary support through peacebuilding, education, healthcare, livelihood development, and institutional strengthening (Partington, 2016).

Finally, the study uses Resource Scarcity Theory and weak governance perspectives as conceptual lenses rather than as purely abstract frameworks (Brock & Madigan, 2016; Gershon et al., 2017). Resource Scarcity Theory is applied to interpret how climate variability and environmental stress increase competition over grazing land and water, thereby elevating the likelihood of violent conflict (Brock & Madigan, 2016). Weak governance is defined in terms of limited administrative capacity, inadequate law enforcement, insufficient dispute resolution mechanisms, and perceived exclusion in political representation, all of which reduce confidence in formal institutions and allow localized disagreements to escalate (Gershon et al., 2017). Together, these concepts structure the analysis of how conflict, economic development, and social progress interact in Mudug (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Pathways Linking Clan Conflict to Economic and Social Outcomes

Recurrent clan clashes in Mudug shape economic and social outcomes through interconnected pathways that link localized violence to household livelihoods, human capital, and community resilience (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Evidence shows that violent confrontations interrupt commercial activities, restrict movement along strategic trade routes, damage productive assets, and discourage investment, placing livestock production, transportation, and informal trade under severe strain because these sectors depend on uninterrupted access to markets, grazing areas, and transport corridors (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Declining employment opportunities and reduced household income emerge as direct consequences of these disruptions, embedding conflict impacts into everyday economic life rather than confining them to discrete episodes of violence (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Social outcomes are affected through parallel mechanisms that connect insecurity to education, healthcare, and community cohesion (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Schools may close during periods of violence, teachers relocate to safer areas, and families withdraw children from education due to safety concerns, producing interrupted educational trajectories and weakening human capital formation (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Healthcare facilities experience shortages of personnel, medicines, and essential services; health workers may suspend services or relocate, while transportation difficulties further reduce access for pregnant women, children, older adults, and individuals with chronic illnesses (El-Naggar et al., 2016). These processes demonstrate a pathway in which recurrent conflict weakens public health outcomes and reduces the capacity of communities to recover from both conflict-related injuries and routine health challenges (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Another pathway operates through the erosion of community cohesion (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Repeated clashes weaken trust between communities, reduce cooperation, and create long-lasting divisions among neighboring clans (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Historical grievances and cycles of retaliation reinforce mutual suspicion, so social interactions, community meetings, and collective development initiatives often decline following violent incidents (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Reduced trust undermines the effectiveness of community-based development projects and complicates the implementation of peacebuilding initiatives, meaning that recurrent clan clashes simultaneously fragment social relations and diminish collective capacity to address shared development challenges (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Population displacement constitutes a further mechanism linking conflict to economic and social outcomes (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Violent confrontations force many households to abandon homes and move to safer locations, frequently resulting in the loss of housing, livestock, productive assets, and established livelihood opportunities (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Internally displaced persons report interrupted livelihoods, reduced household income, limited access to education and healthcare, and increased dependence on humanitarian assistance, alongside psychological stress associated with repeated forced migration (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Displacement also increases demand for housing, water, healthcare, education, and other essential services in host communities, creating secondary social and economic pressures that can intensify vulnerability if not adequately addressed through coordinated interventions (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Conflict drivers themselves are embedded within these outcome pathways (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Competition over grazing land and water resources intensifies during prolonged dry seasons when rivers, wells, and boreholes become insufficient, and disputes over water access interact with historical grievances and territorial disagreements (Brock & Madigan, 2016). This interaction reinforces broader patterns of inter-clan rivalry and increases the likelihood of violent confrontation, thereby linking climate variability and environmental stress to both immediate violence and subsequent economic and social consequences (Brock & Madigan, 2016). Revenge attacks sustain recurrence by transforming unresolved grievances into prolonged cycles of violence across generations, while political interference related to leadership positions, administrative boundaries, and resource allocation is perceived as exploiting clan identities, further entrenching divisions that manifest in disrupted livelihoods and weakened institutions (Gershon et al., 2017).

Community resilience and external support shape countervailing pathways that mediate these adverse outcomes (Partington, 2016). Strong family relationships, clan-based mutual assistance, and community solidarity, including provision of financial assistance, livestock, or temporary shelter, help households recover from economic losses and displacement (Partington, 2016). Livelihood diversification emerges as an adaptive strategy that reduces economic vulnerability by spreading risk, while humanitarian organizations and development partners contribute emergency food aid, healthcare services, water interventions, livelihood support, educational assistance, and psychosocial services (Partington, 2016). At the same time, respondents caution that traditional coping mechanisms are increasingly strained by recurrent conflicts, climate shocks, and economic hardship, and that humanitarian assistance alone is insufficient without long-term development programs promoting employment, infrastructure rehabilitation, education, and effective local governance (El-Naggar et al., 2016). An integrated reading of these findings shows that economic and social outcomes in Mudug are produced through overlapping pathways in which disruption of livelihoods, human capital, community cohesion, and population stability

2. THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS

Conflict and Development Theories

Conflict and development are approached in this study through theoretical lenses that directly reflect the empirically identified drivers and consequences of recurrent clan clashes in Mudug (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Evidence shows that violent conflict undermines economic productivity, weakens institutions, disrupts service delivery, and erodes social cohesion, thereby impeding poverty reduction, investment, and long-term socioeconomic transformation in fragile and conflict-affected states (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Within this context, recurrent clan clashes in Mudug are interpreted not as isolated events but as processes embedded in broader structural dynamics that theoretical frameworks seek to explain (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

One central perspective is Resource Scarcity Theory (Brock & Madigan, 2016). Findings identify competition over grazing land and water resources as primary drivers of recurring clan clashes, particularly during drought periods when access to pasture and water becomes increasingly limited (Brock & Madigan, 2016). Interview evidence further indicates that climate variability and environmental stress indirectly contribute to conflict by increasing competition for essential natural resources such as rivers, wells, and boreholes, whose insufficiency during prolonged dry seasons intensifies disputes among pastoral communities (Brock & Madigan, 2016). These dynamics are explicitly linked to Resource Scarcity Theory, which is described as arguing that environmental pressures increase competition for limited natural resources and heighten the likelihood of violent conflict (Brock & Madigan, 2016). In Mudug, this theoretical lens clarifies why environmental stress and drought conditions act as immediate triggers for disputes that then escalate into recurrent violence (Brock & Madigan, 2016).

Conflict Theory provides a complementary conceptual frame focused on economic hardship and competition over scarce economic resources (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Results suggest that prolonged economic instability creates a cycle in which poverty increases community vulnerability to future conflicts, supporting Conflict Theory's argument that competition over limited economic opportunities contributes to recurring violence (El-Naggar et al., 2016). This perspective is consistent with empirical findings that recurrent clan clashes interrupt commercial activities, restrict movement along transport corridors, damage productive assets, discourage investment, and result in declining employment opportunities and household income, especially in sectors such as livestock production, transportation, and informal trade that depend on uninterrupted access to markets and grazing areas (El-Naggar et al., 2016). By situating these patterns within Conflict Theory, the study interprets recurrent clan clashes as both a cause and consequence of deepening poverty and economic marginalization (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Weak governance and institutional theories constitute a third conceptual strand (Gershon et al., 2017). The study identifies youth unemployment, political interference, and weak governance as primary drivers of recurring clan clashes (Gershon et al., 2017). Political competition over leadership positions, administrative boundaries, and resource allocation is reported to intensify existing clan divisions, with political actors sometimes perceived as exploiting clan identities to strengthen their own influence (Gershon et al., 2017). At the same time, government capacity is described as limited due to inadequate financial resources, weak institutional coordination, insufficient implementation of peace agreements, and delays in conflict resolution, all of which reduce public confidence in governance systems (Gershon et al., 2017). These findings support theoretical claims that weak governance institutions reduce opportunities for peaceful dispute resolution and allow localized disagreements to escalate into prolonged violence (Gershon et al., 2017).

In Mudug, this framework explains why security interventions alone are insufficient and why institutional strengthening is viewed as critical for sustainable conflict prevention and development (Gershon et al., 2017).

The interaction of these theories is reflected in the integrated analysis of conflict drivers (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Empirical evidence shows that recurrent clan clashes arise from the interaction of environmental pressures, economic hardship, historical grievances, political dynamics, and institutional weaknesses (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Competition over grazing land and water provides immediate triggers, while revenge attacks transform isolated incidents into recurring patterns of violence across generations (El-Naggar et al., 2016; Brock & Madigan, 2016). Political interference, youth unemployment, and weak local governance contribute to the persistence and recurrence of conflict (Gershon et al., 2017). Together, Resource Scarcity Theory, Conflict Theory, and weak governance perspectives offer a coherent conceptual framework for interpreting how these interacting factors generate cycles of violence that undermine economic development and social progress in Mudug (El-Naggar et al., 2016). These theoretical perspectives also inform the study's focus on peacebuilding and recovery (Partington, 2016). Evidence indicates that sustainable peace cannot be achieved through security interventions alone, but requires strategies that strengthen natural resource governance, improve political inclusion, expand livelihood opportunities, enhance local administrative capacity, and support community-based reconciliation initiatives (Partington, 2016; Gershon et al., 2017). By grounding its analysis in these conflict and development theories, the study links observed empirical patterns to established conceptual arguments, while using localized data from Mudug to illustrate how environmental stress, economic marginalization, and institutional weakness jointly shape recurrent clan clashes and their developmental impacts (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Conceptual Model for Mudug Clan Clashes

The conceptual model developed for Mudug clan clashes organizes empirically identified drivers, conflict dynamics, impacts, and response mechanisms into an integrated structure that links environmental, economic, political, social, and institutional dimensions (El-Naggar et al., 2016). At its core, recurrent violence is understood as emerging from the interaction of environmental pressures, economic hardship, historical grievances, political dynamics, and weak governance, rather than from a single factor operating in isolation (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Competition over grazing land and water resources is positioned as an immediate trigger, especially during prolonged dry seasons and drought periods when rivers, wells, and boreholes become insufficient to meet rising demand and access to pasture and water becomes increasingly limited (Brock & Madigan, 2016). In the model, these resource pressures feed directly into heightened inter-clan rivalry and the likelihood of violent confrontation (Brock & Madigan, 2016).

A second cluster of components captures reinforcing drivers that sustain and reproduce conflict over time (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Revenge attacks are conceptualized as a key mechanism transforming isolated disputes into recurring patterns of violence that persist across generations (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Survey and qualitative findings show that unresolved grievances from previous confrontations generate retaliatory attacks, with each violent incident creating new grievances and complicating reconciliation in the absence of sustained mediation by respected elders and religious leaders (El-Naggar et al., 2016; Partington, 2016). Political interference forms another reinforcing driver (Gershon et al., 2017). Political competition over leadership positions, administrative boundaries, and resource allocation is described as intensifying existing clan divisions, with political actors sometimes perceived as exploiting clan identities to strengthen their influence (Gershon et al., 2017). Youth unemployment and economic hardship further

amplify these dynamics by deepening vulnerability and reducing alternative livelihood pathways, thereby making participation in clan violence more attractive or less avoidable for some community members (Gershon et al., 2017). In the conceptual model, these elements are represented as feedback loops that perpetuate and escalate conflict (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Downstream from these drivers, the model specifies economic and social impact pathways (El-Naggar et al., 2016). On the economic side, recurrent clashes interrupt commercial activities, restrict movement along transport corridors, damage productive assets, discourage investment, and lead to declining employment opportunities and household income, particularly in livestock production, transportation, and informal trade that depend on uninterrupted access to markets, grazing areas, and routes (El-Naggar et al., 2016). On the social side, persistent violence disrupts education through school closures, teacher relocation, and withdrawal of children, limits access to healthcare via shortages of personnel, medicines, and essential services, and weakens community cohesion by reinforcing mistrust, fear, and social fragmentation (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Population displacement cuts across both domains, as families forced to leave their homes lose productive assets, employment opportunities, and access to education and healthcare, while host communities experience increased competition for limited resources and public services (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Within the model, these impact pathways are directly linked to the underlying conflict drivers, illustrating how structural tensions translate into tangible developmental setbacks (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

A further component of the model addresses governance and institutional responses (Gershon et al., 2017). Weak local governance is represented not only as a driver but also as a moderating factor that shapes the extent to which impacts can be mitigated (Gershon et al., 2017). Respondents report that inadequate financial resources, weak institutional coordination, insufficient implementation of peace agreements, and delays in conflict resolution reduce public confidence in governance systems and limit the effectiveness of formal dispute resolution (Gershon et al., 2017). The model therefore situates institutional strengthening, improved natural resource governance, and inclusive political processes as critical levers for altering conflict trajectories (Gershon et al., 2017). Coordinated strategies that strengthen local administrative capacity, improve political inclusion, expand livelihood opportunities, and support community-based reconciliation are conceptualized as essential interventions that can weaken the feedback loops sustaining violence (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Finally, the model incorporates community resilience and external support as countervailing forces (Partington, 2016). Communities rely on traditional social support networks, collective resource sharing, customary dispute resolution, and community solidarity, including provision of financial assistance, livestock, or temporary shelter to affected families, to cope with and recover from recurrent insecurity (Partington, 2016). Livelihood diversification appears as an adaptive strategy that reduces economic vulnerability, while humanitarian organizations and development partners contribute emergency food aid, healthcare, water interventions, livelihood support, educational assistance, and psychosocial services (Partington, 2016). However, findings show that traditional coping mechanisms are increasingly strained by recurrent conflict, climate shocks, and economic hardship, and that humanitarian assistance alone is insufficient without long-term development programs promoting employment, infrastructure rehabilitation, education, local economic development, and effective governance (El-Naggar et al., 2016). In the conceptual model, these resilience and support mechanisms partially buffer the negative impacts but are themselves dependent on broader structural reforms to achieve durable peace and sustainable development in Mudug (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Design and Overall Approach

The study adopted a mixed-methods design to examine how recurrent clan clashes affect economic development and social progress in the Mudug Region (El-Naggar et al., 2016). The approach combined quantitative survey data with qualitative evidence from key informant interviews and focus group discussions to capture both measurable socioeconomic impacts and in-depth community experiences (El-Naggar et al., 2016). This design was chosen to address gaps in previous research by simultaneously analyzing economic outcomes such as trade, income, and employment alongside social dimensions including education, healthcare, community cohesion, and displacement within a single integrated framework (El-Naggar et al., 2016). The mixed-methods strategy enabled triangulation between data sources and supported a multidimensional understanding of localized conflict in a fragile setting (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Study Population, Sampling, and Target Groups

The target population comprised diverse stakeholder groups directly affected by recurrent clan clashes in the Mudug Region, including youth, local administrators, traditional elders, business owners, women, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) (El-Naggar et al., 2016). From an initial target sampling frame of $N = 130$ individuals, a total of 98 respondents completed the quantitative structured questionnaire, yielding an effective survey response rate of approximately 75.4% (El-Naggar et al., 2016). The achieved quantitative sample reflected a balanced gender distribution, with 53 male respondents (54.1%) and 45 female respondents (45.9%), and encompassed varied age groups, educational backgrounds, occupational categories, and administrative districts within Mudug (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Qualitative data collection involved purposive sampling of key informants (traditional elders, local administrators, and business leaders) and focus group participants (youth, women, and IDPs) to ensure depth and domain-specific insights across conflict-affected communities (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Data Collection Instruments and Procedures

Primary data were gathered using structured questionnaires, key informant interview guides, and focus group discussion protocols (El-Naggar et al., 2016). The structured questionnaires operationalized core constructs using categorical and ordinal scale items to collect quantitative indicators on trade disruption, income fluctuation, job loss, educational interruptions, health facility accessibility, inter-clan trust, and displacement status (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Key informant interviews and focus group discussions explored thematic areas including environmental conflict drivers, structural triggers, historical revenge motives, customary mediation mechanisms, and community coping strategies (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Secondary data were compiled from peer-reviewed journal articles, institutional reports, and local administrative documents to contextualize empirical patterns and anchor theoretical interpretations (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Data Quality, Validity, and Trustworthiness

Several procedural safeguards were implemented to ensure data validity, reliability, and qualitative trustworthiness (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Structured questionnaires were standardly pre-tested to verify item clarity and contextual relevance before full field administration (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Quantitative survey entries underwent systematic validation, coding, and data cleaning routines prior to statistical processing in SPSS to minimize handling errors (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

For qualitative components, credibility and dependability were established through rigorous thematic saturation checks and multi-analyst transcript reviews (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Furthermore, cross-methodological triangulation was systematically executed, benchmarking survey frequency distributions against narrative interview accounts to verify convergent validity across independent data streams (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Data Analysis and Statistical Methods

Quantitative data were processed, coded, and cleaned using IBM SPSS Statistics (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Descriptive statistical analyses, including absolute frequencies and percentages, were computed to summarize sample demographics and evaluate response patterns across key economic and social impact indicators (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Qualitative narrative transcripts were analyzed using systematic thematic analysis (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Transcripts were coded inductively and deductively to extract primary nodes corresponding to conflict drivers, economic disruptions, social impacts, and resilience factors (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Methodological triangulation was applied during synthesis, merging quantitative frequencies with qualitative narrative themes to establish convergent validity across data streams (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Ethical Considerations

Ethical clearance for the study was secured from relevant local administrative authorities and community leadership in the Mudug Region prior to initiating field data collection (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Informed consent was formally obtained from all survey respondents, interviewees, and focus group participants (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Participants were briefed on the study's scope, voluntary participation, and their right to withdraw at any stage without prejudice (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Strict confidentiality and anonymity safeguards were enforced by removing personal identifiers from analytic files and restricting data access exclusively to academic research purposes (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Economic and social effects of recurrent clan clashes in the Mudug region

Study sample and analytical completeness. Descriptive analysis of the structured survey data (n = 98) indicated widespread economic and social disruption across the Mudug region arising from recurrent clan clashes. All returned questionnaires were complete for the reported items, and no cases were excluded from analysis.

Table 1. Demographic profile of survey respondents (n = 98)

Demographic variable	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	53	54.1
Gender	Female	45	45.9
Stakeholder category	Youth / community members	28	28.6
Stakeholder category	Business owners / traders	22	22.4
Stakeholder category	Internally displaced persons (IDPs)	20	20.4
Stakeholder category	Traditional elders / religious leaders	15	15.3
Stakeholder category	Local administrators	13	13.3
Primary economic activity	Pastoralism / livestock production	36	36.7
Primary economic activity	Informal retail and small business	27	27.6
Primary economic activity	Transport and logistics services	18	18.4
Primary economic activity	Public sector / civil service	10	10.2
Primary economic activity	Unemployed / other	7	7.1

Note. n = 98; percentages are proportions of the total sample and may not sum to 100.0 because of rounding. IDPs = internally displaced persons. Source: field survey conducted by the author in the Mudug region.

Sample composition. Male respondents formed a slight majority of the sample (53 of 98; 54.1%). Pastoralists and informal traders together accounted for 64.3% of respondents, indicating that the sample was drawn predominantly from livelihood groups whose incomes depended on unimpeded mobility and functioning markets.

Table 2. Reported severity of economic impacts of recurrent clan clashes (n = 98)

Economic impact indicator	High impact (%)	Moderate impact (%)	Low / no impact (%)
Blockage of transport corridors and road travel	85.7	10.2	4.1
Reduced household income and earning capacity	82.7	12.2	5.1
Interruption of local trade and market closures	78.6	15.3	6.1
Decline in local business investment and credit access	74.5	17.3	8.2
Destruction of productive assets (livestock losses, property damage)	71.4	20.4	8.2
Mean across indicators	78.6	15.1	6.3

Note. n = 98; values are percentages of respondents selecting each severity category on a three-point ordinal scale. Rows sum to 100.0 subject to rounding. Indicators are ordered by descending proportion reporting high impact. Source: field survey conducted by the author in the Mudug region.

Economic impacts. Interruption of commercial activity and obstruction of transport networks emerged as the most severely affected dimensions during violent confrontations. At least 71.4% of respondents reported high impact across all five indicators, whereas low or no impact did not exceed 8.2%.

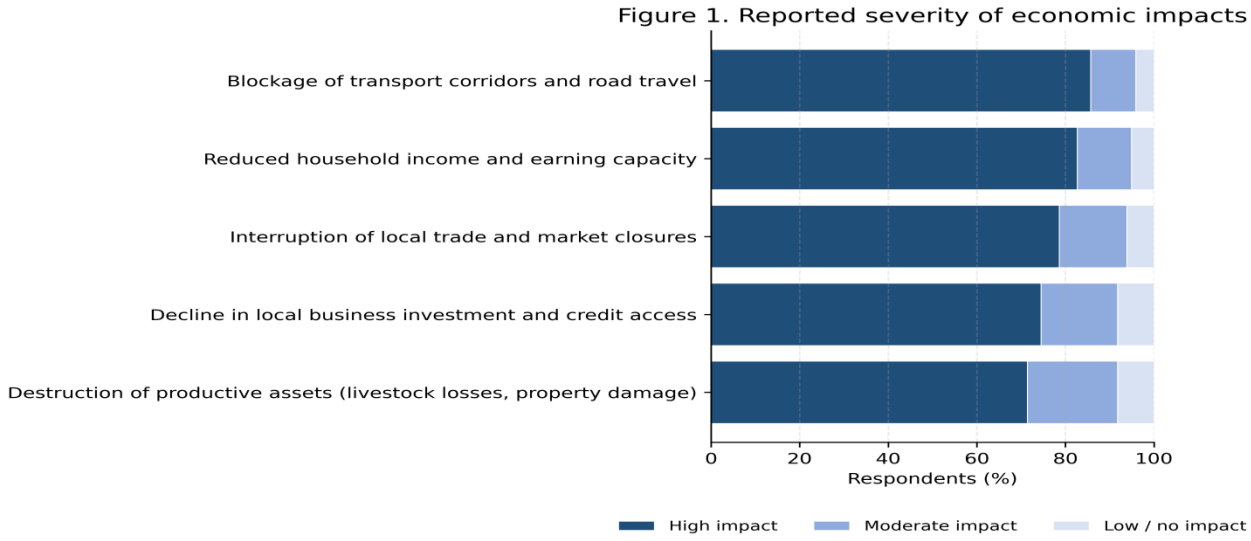


Figure 1. Distribution of reported severity across five economic impact indicators, Mudug region (n = 98). Values are percentages of respondents; bar segments denote high, moderate, and low/no impact.

Table 3. Reported severity of social impacts of recurrent clan clashes (n = 98)

Social impact dimension	Severe disruption (%)	Moderate disruption (%)	Minimal disruption (%)

Loss of inter-clan trust and social cohesion	84.7	11.2	4.1
Disruption to schooling and educational access	81.6	13.3	5.1
Impaired healthcare access and relocation of health staff	76.5	17.3	6.2
Forced internal household displacement	69.4	21.4	9.2
Mean across dimensions	78.1	15.8	6.2

Note. n = 98; values are percentages of respondents selecting each severity category on a three-point ordinal scale. Rows sum to 100.0 subject to rounding. Dimensions are ordered by descending proportion reporting severe disruption. Source: field survey conducted by the author in the Mudug region.

Social impacts. Social indicators followed a comparable pattern, with marked declines in access to human-capital services and community cohesion. Erosion of inter-clan trust was the most frequently reported severe outcome (84.7%), followed by disruption to schooling (81.6%) and impaired healthcare access (76.5%). Forced internal displacement was the lowest-ranked dimension, but it was still reported as severe by 69.4% of respondents.

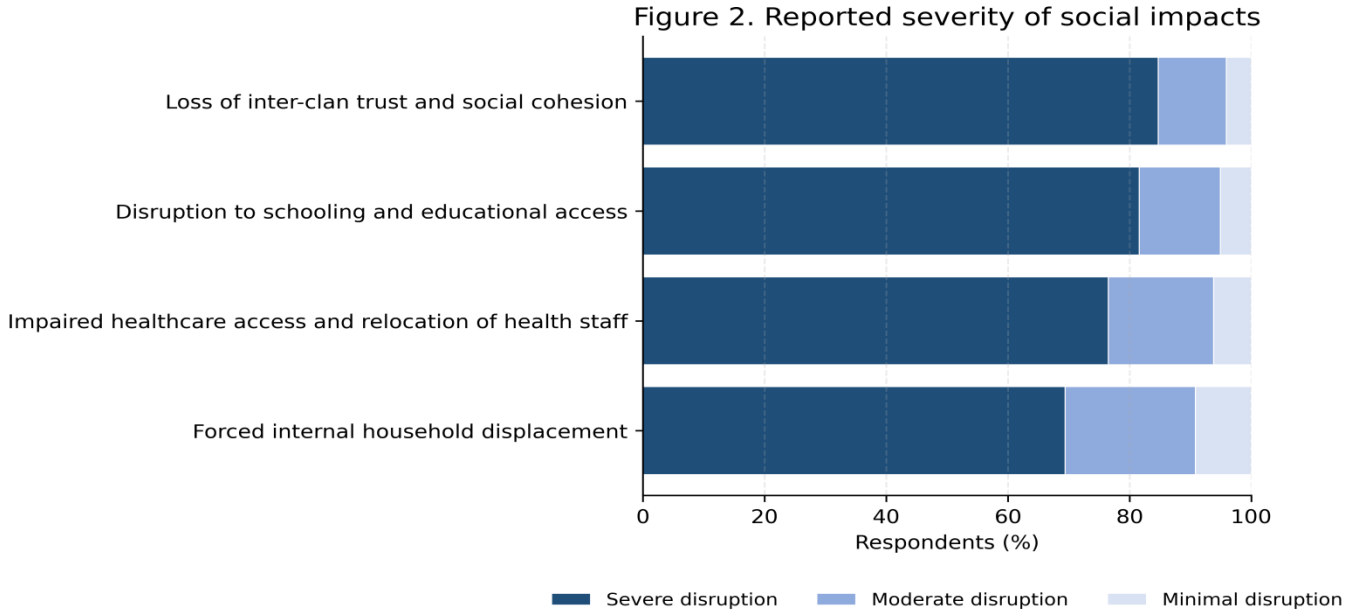


Figure 2. Distribution of reported severity across four social impact dimensions, Mudug region (n = 98). Values are percentages of respondents; bar segments denote severe, moderate, and minimal disruption.

Cross-domain comparison. The aggregate mean severity scores were nearly identical across domains: 78.6% (SD = 5.6) for economic indicators and 78.1% (SD = 6.5) for social indicators. This pattern indicated that the two domains were affected to a comparable degree rather than one being subordinate to the other.

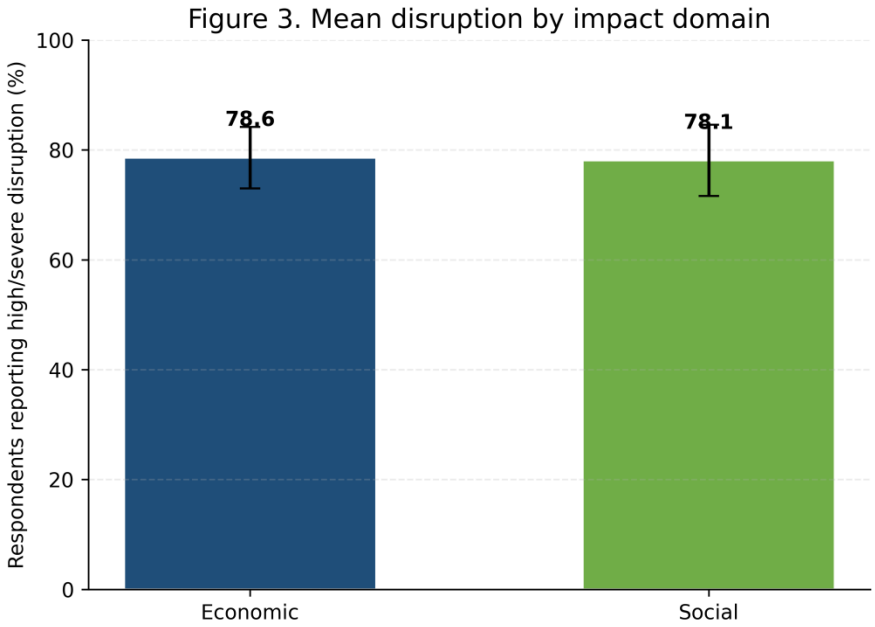


Figure 3. Mean proportion of respondents reporting high or severe disruption by impact domain, Mudug region (n = 98). Error bars denote one standard deviation across the indicators within each domain.

5. DISCUSSION

Economic transmission mechanisms. The convergence of the economic and social findings suggested that recurrent clan clashes operated less as discrete shocks than as a persistent constraint on livelihood systems. Transport-corridor blockage represented the most direct transmission mechanism from localised fighting to households farther from the point of violence. Once corridors closed, pastoral producers lost access to terminal markets, traders were unable to replenish stock, and price volatility followed. Reduced household income was therefore interpreted primarily as a downstream consequence of mobility restriction rather than as an isolated effect.

Longer-term capital effects. The pattern of asset destruction and reduced credit access indicated a slower recovery mechanism. Livestock loss and property damage weakened both productive capacity and the collateral base used within largely informal credit systems. Consequently, lending conditions were likely to have remained constrained after hostilities subsided, implying that economic recovery would not have tracked the cessation of fighting because capital stocks and the trust relationships underpinning informal finance recovered more slowly than physical security.

Social cohesion and human capital. The ranking of inter-clan trust above every other outcome carried substantial policy significance. Trust deficits could become self-reinforcing because suspicion discouraged cross-clan trade, shared grazing arrangements, and joint use of service infrastructure. In combination with disrupted schooling and healthcare access, the findings indicated a compounding intergenerational cost. Education and health-service interruptions reduced future human capital, while weakened cohesion diminished the informal institutions through which reconstruction was negotiated.

Implications for stabilisation and peacebuilding. The near-equivalence of economic and social severity scores indicated that conflict costs were not concentrated in the material domain. Stabilisation programmes that focused only on market rehabilitation or infrastructure repair would therefore address only part of the documented damage. Sustainable recovery would require coordinated action on transport access, livelihood

assets, education, healthcare, social trust, and locally legitimate conflict-resolution institutions.

Qualitative interpretation of structural drivers.
Qualitative narratives indicated that competition over grazing land and water boreholes during severe dry seasons acted as a primary trigger for clan conflict. Environmental stress compressed available pastoral territory and transformed customary rangeland sharing into localised confrontation. Resource scarcity did not operate in isolation; it interacted with historical grievances, revenge dynamics, political interference, and youth unemployment, thereby generating self-reinforcing cycles of violence. These patterns were consistent with Resource Scarcity Theory and Conflict Theory (Brock & Madigan, 2016; El-Naggar et al., 2016; Gershon et al., 2017).

Local coping and peacebuilding integration. Community resilience remained rooted in indigenous mechanisms. Traditional elders operating through the Xeer system and religious leaders retained legitimacy in mediating ceasefires, negotiating blood compensation (Diya), and reducing retaliatory motives. Households also diversified livelihoods into small-scale trade and relied on clan-based mutual-aid networks. However, these customary structures were increasingly overstretched by combined climate shocks and recurrent security risks. Peacebuilding therefore required formal institutional support, natural-resource governance, targeted youth employment, and integration of short-term humanitarian assistance with long-term economic development (Partington, 2016; El-Naggar et al., 2016; Gershon et al., 2017).

Limitations. The findings were based on self-reported perceptions from a purposively constructed sample of 98 respondents in one region. The percentages should therefore be interpreted as indicators of relative salience rather than population parameters. The cross-sectional design also precluded causal inference and did not capture variation across the conflict cycle. Longitudinal measurement combined with market-price and school-enrolment records would allow the proposed mechanisms to be tested directly.

Major conclusion
Recurrent clan clashes exerted a severe and mutually reinforcing effect on both the economic and social fabric of the Mudug region. The findings indicated that clashes suppressed household income principally by closing transport corridors and markets, depleted productive and collateral assets on which informal credit depended, and simultaneously degraded education, healthcare, and—most prominently—inter-clan trust. Recovery consequently depended on addressing material and relational dimensions together, because neither could be restored durably while the other remained impaired.

6. CONCLUSIONS

This study synthesizes quantitative and qualitative evidence to show how recurrent clan clashes in Mudug disrupt livelihoods, market systems, and public services, and how those disruptions feed back into cycles of insecurity (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Repeated interruptions to transport corridors and livestock markets reduce household income, accelerate asset loss, and constrain recovery, while closures of schools and health facilities, displacement, and erosion of inter-clan trust weaken human capital and social cohesion (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Resource scarcity around grazing and water points, revenge dynamics, political interference, youth unemployment, and constrained local governance capacity are identified as interacting drivers that convert episodic disputes into prolonged cycles of violence (El-Naggar et al., 2016; Brock & Madigan, 2016; Gershon et al., 2017). The mixed-methods approach, combining survey data ($n = 98$) with key informant interviews and focus group discussions, supports these findings by linking

measurable impacts with lived experiences and local coping strategies (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Policy responses should combine short-term stabilization with longer-term institutional and economic reforms so that humanitarian relief is explicitly linked with durable recovery (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Priorities include restoring and protecting transport links and market infrastructure, supporting diversified income programs that reduce dependence on single livelihoods, strengthening dispute resolution and inclusive governance, and investing in sustained education and health service delivery that remain accessible during crises (El-Naggar et al., 2016; Gershon et al., 2017). Coordinated action among government actors, traditional authorities, civil society, and external partners is required to address resource management, reduce incentives for retaliation, and rebuild trust across communities, thereby lowering the likelihood that localized clashes become recurrent and intergenerational (Partington, 2016; Gershon et al., 2017).

Author's Contribution Statement

The study conceptualization, research design and theoretical framing linking recurrent clan clashes to economic and social dynamics were developed directly (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Literature reviews covering localized violence, Conflict Theory and Resource Scarcity Theory were independently synthesized (El-Naggar et al., 2016; Brock & Madigan, 2016). Fieldwork implementation, ethical clearances, informed consent protocols, and data collection tools were executed on site in Mudug (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

Quantitative data cleaning, SPSS statistical coding, qualitative transcript analysis, and methodological triangulation were completed to yield integrated study outputs (El-Naggar et al., 2016). Manuscript drafting, analytical table formulation, policy translation, and final editorial revisions were carried out in full compliance with journal submission standards (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

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Conflicts of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this manuscript (El-Naggar et al., 2016). The research was conducted independently without external financial or political influence (El-Naggar et al., 2016).

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